



# Marine Corps

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## Marines aid Pakistan flood victims

By Elaine Wilson  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON**—The Marine Corps has responded to the crisis in Pakistan with troops, aircraft and a host of evacuation support, and relief supplies, the service's commandant said here.

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway recently returned from a trip to Pakistan and updated reporters on the Marines' relief efforts in the wake of massive flooding

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U.S. Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit and Pakistani soldiers load supplies onto a U.S. Marine Corps CH-53E Sea Stallion helicopter in support of the flood relief effort in Pano Aqil, Pakistan, Sept. 11. (Photo by Sgt. Jason Bushong) [Click image to watch video.](#)

## Interview with CMC: State of the Corps

By Colonel David H. Gurney, USMC (Ret.),  
 and Dr. Jeffrey D. Smotherman  
*Joint Force Quarterly*

**JFQ:** For several years, the Marine Corps has been operating very closely with the United States Army in Iraq and Afghanistan. To what degree have sea service skill sets atrophied, and do you sense that some increasingly see the Marine Corps as a second Army?

**General Conway:** I'll answer the second part first. The bottom line is that the Marine Corps, as

we say, "does windows." That has prompted us in both Iraq and Afghanistan to operate 500 miles from the smell of salty sea air. But that's okay with us. If there's a fight to be engaged in, we're going to be there, and so we've made the necessary adjustments to make it all work. In 2003, we lined up alongside V Corps and 3d ID [Infantry Division], and did something that no MAGTF [Marine Air-Ground Task Force] has ever done- that is, to attack 500 miles from Kuwait to Baghdad and beyond. It really strained our capacity to do that, but we were pretty proud



General James T. Conway  
 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps

of ourselves that in the end we were able to make those kinds of adjust

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CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. Petty Officer 3rd Class Dock Jacobs, a patient with Wounded Warrior Battalion West, Camp Pendleton, takes off running after he makes a hit during a softball game at the WWBn-West's family day festival at Lake O'Neil, Aug. 19.

[Learn more](#) about the Wounded Warrior Regiment.

## Family day strengthens morale for wounded warriors, families

By Lance Cpl. Damien Gutierrez  
 Camp Pendleton, Public Affairs

**CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – Warriors of Wounded Warrior Battalion West gathered with their brothers in arm and families for a family day festival at Camp Pendleton's Lake O'Neil, Aug. 19.

The mission of the WWBn-West is to provide and facilitate assistance to injured Marines and sailors attached to or in support of Marine units.

During the family day event, numerous booths from programs geared towards the aid of wounded warriors and their families outlined the picnic area of the lake.

"It's definitely a good feeling to know that so many organizations across the nations are eager to help all of our families," said Tanya Guerra, spouse of an injured Marine. "The Wounded Warrior Battalion is so great in that they are always trying to find ways to help."

Throughout the phases of recovery, the battalion is responsible for caring for the needs of all seriously ill or injured Marines, from west of the Mississippi River to Okinawa, Japan. It also provides oversight and leadership to Marines and their families as they recover.

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## Marines mentor Mozambican military forces

By Sgt. Lydia M. Davey  
 Marine Forces Africa

**MOAMBA, Mozambique**—Marines with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, spent the day here mentoring soldiers with the Armed Forces for the Defense of Mozambique (FADM) in combat marksmanship, proper escalation of force, and the establishment and value of vehicle checkpoints. The classes are part of a package designed to increase Mozambique's capacity for peace and stability operations during SHARED ACCORD 2010, an annually scheduled event designed to build U.S. Africa Command's partner nation capacity for for peace and

stability operations.

"We are laying a foundation in effective peacekeeping tactics at the small unit level," said U.S. Marine Sgt. Jonathan Robinson, a police sergeant with Weapons Co., 2/25, which is based out of Garden City, N.Y. "Every Marine in Weapons Company, from the youngest to the most experienced, is approaching this event with the utmost professionalism and enthusiasm. We're excited about the opportunity to pass on our experiences and training to a friendly force."

During the seven-day evolution, the Marines will work with the

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U.S. Marine Sgt. Maj. James T. Adams, battalion sergeant major with 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, along with fellow U.S. service members, encourages a soldier with the Armed Forces for the Defense of Mozambique to finish the Marine Combat Fitness Test in Moamba, Mozambique, Aug. 6. The FADM soldiers ran the fitness test during Exercise SHARED ACCORD 2010. (Photo by Cpl. Cullen J. Tiernan ) [Click image to watch video.](#)



# Marine expeditionary unit recaptures ship from pirates



U.S. Marine Corps snipers provide cover and observation during a boarding and seizure operation to recover the motor vessel Magellan Star from suspected pirates who took control of the ship in the Gulf of Aden on Sept 9. (Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Gregory Tate)



U.S. Navy amphibious transport dock ship USS Dubuque (LPD 8), center, deploys U.S. Marine Corps Cobra attack helicopters Sept. 9 during a board and seizure operation by the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class William Farmerie)



U.S. Marines assigned to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit Maritime Raid Force approach the motor vessel Magellan Star in the Gulf of Aden Sept. 9 to recover the vessel from suspected pirates who took control of the ship on Sept. 8. (Official DOD photo)

By U.S. Naval Forces Central Command  
 15th MEU, Public Affairs

**MANAMA, Bahrain** — At approximately 5 a.m. local time, Sept. 9, 24 U.S. Marines from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Maritime Raid Force (MRF) aboard USS Dubuque (LPD 8) operating under Combined Task Force 151 (CTF-151), boarded and seized control of Antigua-Barbuda-flagged, German-owned vessel M/V Magellan Star from pirates who attacked and boarded the vessel early Sept 8.

This successful mission by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) secured the safety of the ship's crew and returned control of the ship to the civilian mariners. Nine pirates were under control of CTF 151, pending further disposition. This ship's crew has not reported any injuries or casualties. There were no reported injuries from

the U.S. Maritime Raid Force.

The CTF-151 flagship, TCG Gokceada, a Turkish frigate, was the first ship on scene, responding to a distress call received from Magellan Star, Sept 8. Two additional warships assigned to CTF-151, USS Dubuque (LPD 8) and USS Princeton (CG 59) arrived in the vicinity of the attack to provide support to Gokceada.

Turkish Navy Rear Adm. Sinan Ertugrul, commander, CTF-151 said, "units from the multinational maritime force, under Combined Task Force 151, are actively engaged in anti-piracy operations. This regional problem, truly, has global impact and we are completely committed to bringing the disruptive acts of piracy to an end. We have full support of the international community and will con-

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A U.S. Navy UH-1N Iroquois helicopter provides cover while U.S. Marines with Maritime Raid Force, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, embarked aboard USS Dubuque (LPD 8), board the motor vessel M/V Magellan Star during a board and seizure operation in the Gulf of Aden. The Marines took nine suspected pirates into custody. (Official DOD photo)



Sgt. Christopher Conaway and Cpl. Curtis Wolf, a squad leader and a team leader with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, help an Afghan boy get his wheelbarrow up an incline while manning a vehicle checkpoint. (Photo by Sgt. Mark Fayloga) [Click image to watch video.](#)

## Afghan police: A glimpse of things to come

By Sgt. Mark Fayloga  
 Regimental Combat Team 7

**NAWA, HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan**—Sooner, rather than later, the Marine presence in Nawa will dwindle down as Afghan police and soldiers take over complete responsibility for the security and stability of the region.

At the Nawa District Bazaar Sept. 3, a scene from Afghanistan's possible future unfolds.

Marines from Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and Afghan National Police officers from the Nawa District Center Police Station conduct vehicle checkpoints as part of security for the bazaar.

Marines man the checkpoints alone for the first hour, but once the Afghan police arrive the Marines assume a supervisory role and provide additional security. The Marines will assist with searching

vehicles if they start pulling up, but for the most part the checkpoints are Afghan-led.

"We're trying to set it up so it's Afghans helping out Afghans," said Sgt. Christopher Conaway, a squad leader with Kilo Company. "We want to make sure they can cover this area by themselves whenever we leave."

Since first partnering with the police more than four months back, Conaway said he's seen big improvements thanks to training and growing camaraderie.

"We've made it our mission to prepare them and enable them to take care of themselves," Conaway, from Marshall, Mo., said.

Manning the checkpoints can be a daunting task as each Friday the bazaar draws in Afghans from all over the region. On Sept. 3 traffic was a little lighter than usual, most likely because it took

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